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**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY  
AT THE LUNCHEON FOR ENGLISH-TEACHING  
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS  
AMERICA WEEK 2009 IN BARISAL  
JANUARY 27, 2009**

Assalamu-aleikum, and good afternoon. I am pleased that we are able to reunite the participants in last year's English teaching workshop. My thanks to all of the principals who have come to show their support for English-language teaching programs. Thank you all for coming.

I have spent time this week discussing the theme of transitions with a number of groups. Both Bangladesh and the United States are undergoing transitions now after historic elections. Both new governments will try to meet the expectations of those who elected them, and both are confronted by difficult challenges.

A challenge facing both of our countries is the need to ensure a quality education for all children. As teachers and school administrators, you know how important it is to nurture and train the next generation. You know how important it is to give students the tools to succeed.

There is no denying that in today's globalized economy, a key tool for success is mastery of the English language. Proficiency in the English language helps students gain admission to universities and find jobs once they graduate. As English teachers, you provide your students the opportunity to achieve their goals. And as young people have more opportunities to grow, learn, and make positive changes in society, Bangladesh will come closer to achieving its long-term development goals.

Teachers play a crucial role in any society. Yours is a challenging profession. Teachers also need to continue to learn. I congratulate you for participating in this teacher training program. Such training allows you to refine your skills and learn new techniques. Your students will benefit from your investment of the time required to

participate actively in the workshop. I also applaud the school principals who value the professional development of their teachers.

I am pleased that the U.S. government is able to support English teaching in Bangladesh in a number of ways. We fund workshops such as the one in which you participated. We provide qualified English-language teachers to training institutions. We also send qualified teachers on exchange programs. By supporting teachers, we demonstrate our commitment to the importance of educating the next generation of leaders.

In this time of transition and change, your commitment to excellence should be a constant. You have a heavy responsibility in educating Bangladesh's youth. The United States will continue to support the efforts of dedicated educators like all of you. Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery*